

Frankford Arsenal, Buildings 213/214

East side of McKee Street between Hagner Road
and Craig Road
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-74J

51-#HILA
693-J-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
Mid-Atlantic Regional Office
National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

Frankford Arsenal, Buildings 213/214

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Location: East side of McKee Street between Hagner Road and Craig Road
Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania

Quad: Frankford

Date of Construction: 1903 - Building 213
1918 - Building 214

Significance: Building 213, constructed in 1903 as a box and packing shop, and Building 214, constructed in 1918 as a small arms ammunition storehouse, are connected buildings associated with the expansion of facilities at Frankford Arsenal that occurred during the first decades of the twentieth century.

Historian: Patrick O'Bannon
Principal Historian
John Milner Associates, Inc.
1216 Arch Street, 5th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107

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HISTORY

Contractor G. W. Pierson erected Building 213 as a two-story box and packing shop in 1903. In 1919, contractor William R. Dougherty added a third story to the building. About 1940, the interior was remodeled and converted into a small arms and medium caliber ammunition shop.

Building 214 was constructed in 1918 at a cost of \$100,600, as a small arms ammunition storehouse. By 1922, portions of the building were in use as a box shop and loading shop. It was converted into a small arms and medium caliber ammunition shop ca. 1940. Building 214A, a powder elevator and storeroom, was constructed in 1941.

DESCRIPTION

Building 213 is a three-story brick building, measuring approximately 124 feet by 49 feet. It has a granite foundation with a brownstone watertable. Shallow brick pilasters divide the building into bays. Window openings are paired segmental arches with brick hoods and brownstone sills. Sash are double-hung six-over-six units beneath these fixed lights. The slate-covered hip roof has a corbeled brick cornice, and is supported by steel Fink truss. The building's interior consists of open space with a center row of steel columns. A two-story brick bridge connects to Building 214.

Building 214 is a three-story, L-plan brick building, measuring approximately 123 feet by 52 feet. A 39-foot-wide wing at the northwest corner of the building connects to Building 213. Together, the two buildings form a U-plan single unit. Building 214 has a raised concrete foundation with a brownstone watertable. The brick walls are divided into bays by shallow pilasters. Window openings consist of paired segmental arches with concrete sills and keystones. Window sash are thirty-light steel units. The building has a hipped slate roof with a corbeled brick cornice. The interior is open, with concrete columns and floor slabs, and wooden flooring.

Building 214A is located adjacent to the south elevation of Building 214. This structure is a three-story steel frame powder elevator. It has a concrete foundation and floors. The exterior walls and roof consist of asbestos-protected metal siding. Building 214A is connected to Building 214 by a third story steel frame bridge.

SOURCE

John Milner Associates, "Historical and Archeological Survey of Frankford Arsenal," (West Chester, PA: John Milner Associates, 1979):

Report prepared for the Department of the Army, Baltimore District, Corps of Engineers, Baltimore, Maryland. Copies on file at Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Free Library, and Philadelphia Historical Commission.

